

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 5 1. A knife sharpening system for sharpening blade edges of knives, comprising:

10 a base portion having an elongate guide rail having a top surface at a first level, a knife support means for maintaining a blade of a knife being sharpened with its blade edge spaced apart by a horizontal distance from the guide rail and for elevating the blade on a plane at a second level which is higher than the top surface of the guide rail, and a sharpening implement which is longer than the distance between the guide rail and the blade edge.

- 15 2. The knife sharpening system of claim 1, wherein the base portion has a handle support for engaging a handle of a knife.

- 20 3. The knife sharpening system of claim 2, wherein the handle support has a relief for receiving a handle of the knife.

- 25 4. The knife sharpening system of claim 2, wherein the handle support has a peg for engagement with a peg receiving aperture in a handle of the knife.

5. The knife sharpening system of claim 1, wherein the base portion has a blade platform upon which the blade of the knife will sit.

- 30 6. The knife sharpening system of claim 1, wherein the base portion has two guide rails and the knife support means will support a knife in two, flipped over, orientations.

1 45243/DRK/M704

7. The knife sharpening system of claim 1, wherein the guide  
rail is curved to match a curved knife for which the knife  
5 sharpening system is used to sharpen.

8. The knife sharpening system of claim 1, wherein the  
sharpening implement is a sharpening stone.

10 9. The knife sharpening system of claim 1, wherein the  
sharpening implement sits on the blade at a predetermined  
sharpening angle.

10. A knife sharpening system for sharpening blade edges of  
knives, comprising:

at least one knife having a predetermined handle and blade  
size, shape, and blade edge angle;

a base portion having an elongate guide rail having a top  
surface at a first level, a knife support means for maintaining  
a blade of the knife being sharpened with its blade edge spaced  
20 apart by a horizontal distance from the guide rail and for  
elevating the blade on a plane at a second level which is higher  
than the top surface of the guide rail;

and a sharpening implement which is longer than the distance  
25 between the guide rail and the blade edge.

11. The knife sharpening system of claim 10, wherein the base  
portion has a handle support for engaging the handle of the  
knife.

30 12. The knife sharpening system of claim 11, wherein the handle  
support has a relief for receiving the handle of the knife.

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13. The knife sharpening system of claim 11, wherein the knife  
has an aperture formed in its handle, and the base portion has  
5 a peg for engagement with the aperture.

14. The knife sharpening system of claim 10, wherein the base  
portion has a blade platform upon which the blade of the knife  
will sit.

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15. The knife sharpening system of claim 10, wherein the base  
portion has two guide rails and the knife support means will  
support a knife in two, flipped over, orientations.

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16. A method for sharpening knives which places a precise  
sharpened edge angle on the knife's blade, comprising the steps  
of:

providing a knife with a particular handle and blade with  
a predetermined length, blade shape, and blade edge angle, and  
20 type of edge;

providing a base having a knife holder which holds the  
knife's handle and blade in a predetermined position, a guide  
rail which is horizontally spaced apart from knife holder, the  
guide rail having a top edge which is lower than the blade;

25 providing a sharpening implement with is longer than the  
distance between the knife's edge placed on the base and the  
guide rail;

moving the sharpening implement across the blade and the  
guide rail to sharpen the knife's edge at a predetermined blade  
30 angle.

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